

The Presbytery of Elizabeth

Minutes of Council

November 11 mmviii

Attendance.

Ministers

12. Michael Granzen (Elizabeth Second), Moderator of Presbytery
5. Robert Martin (Crescent Ave.), Committee on Ministry
13. John Howard (Siloam-Hope), At-large, Worship and Theology Team
9. William Weaver (Linden), Personnel Committee
3. Lawrence Finn, III (MaL), Evangelism and Church Vitality Unit, chair
11. Howard Bryant (Connecticut Farms), Vice-Moderator

Elders

12. Barbara McLaughlan (Westfield), Moderator of Presbytery
- . Alan Ford (Bethlehem), General Assembly Council
1. Lee Anne Lowman (Central), Chair of Council
18. Gerald Nelson (Liberty Corner), Trustees of Presbytery, chair
4. Helen Mosley (Siloam-Hope), Educational Ministries Unit, chair
6. Jack Paddon (Liberty Corner), Outreach and Social Concerns Unit, co-chair
14. Virginia Miller (Osceola), Presbyterian Women, chair

Ex officio

19. Paul F. Rack (Bethlehem), Stated Clerk
21. Elder David Bomgaars (Central), Treasurer of Presbytery
23. Sara Burke (Westfield), Administrative Assistant

Not present or Excused

20. Rev. Robert Foltz-Morrison, Executive Presbyter
15. 17. Judy Wussler (Fanwood), Committee on Representation, chair; Synod of the Northeast
13. Jeffrey Wildrick (Dunellen), At-large
7. Rev. Gregory Horn (Cranford), Committee on Preparation for Ministry, chair
6. John Illian (Central), Outreach and Social Concerns Unit, co-chair
8. Elder Betty Prezzy Bryant (Third-Westminster), Nominating Committee, chair
2. Elder Susan Gieser (Westminster), Vice-Chair of Council
22. Joanne Noblitt (Rahway First), Financial Development Committee, chair

The regular monthly meeting of the Council of the Presbytery of Elizabeth was called to order at 4:02 pm (EST) on Tuesday, November 11, 2008, at the United church in Plainfield.

Devotions.

The opening devotions were given by Michael Granzen, who read Jesus' words: "blessed are the merciful for they will receive mercy." The actions have more impact than the words. It is important to embody mercy in the world.

Council Chair.

1. The Council **VOTED** to approve the agenda of today's meeting.
2. The Council **VOTED** to approve the Minutes of the October 14, 2008, Council meeting.
3. The Board of Pensions grant has been approved. Rob Martin reported on some details.

4. Lee Anne announced the "Big Tent" event next summer, which is a gathering of many different interest groups in the denomination, all together.

Treasurer.

Money to pay for the 150 copies of the *Outlook* to be distributed at the November meeting will come from the presbytery Stated Meeting budget.

Stated Clerk.

The Stated Clerk presented a proposed Docket for the November Stated Meeting of presbytery. The Council discussed the details of the Docket. The main issue was the request for time from the WATT to address questions from the floor regarding the possible effects of passing or not passing amendment 08-B. Council denied this request. Written information (*Outlook* and ASC review) will be distributed, and written questions on 08-B will be solicited from the presbytery in November for consideration by WATT and B&O. The Council **VOTED** to overturn the previously agreed upon process and schedule, and have the discussion, debate, and vote on 08-B in January, and the discussion, debate, and vote, on all other amendments in March.

Discussion Items.

1. Budget/Per Capita.

The projected pledge income for 2009 will be considerably less than what was expected in 2008. (\$270K in 2009 as opposed to \$339K in 2008.) Every program unit would suffer serious cuts. ECVU loses \$25K, Johnsonburg's line in EDU is cut by 1/3. The OSC budget will be cut by over \$43K. We would cut one presbytery meeting in 2009, probably October. As yet-to-be-proposed increases in Personnel would be reduced by 1%.

The Council **VOTED** to present this budget for a First Reading in November.

The Council previewed the presentation on the budget which will be given to presbytery.

The Council **VOTED** to take the 3\$K budgeted for the Youth Triennium and keep it in reserve for the next time the event occurs.

2. Administrative Manual.

The ongoing saga of the Administrative Manual revisions continues. We are coming close to a final edition. Discussion of the manual was postponed until December. The Council **VOTED** to include in the new By-Laws dropping the October meeting of presbytery and moving the November meeting to the second Tuesday, beginning in 2009.

3. The Council **VOTED** to ask presbyters to bring canned goods to the November meeting.

Moderator.

Elder McLaughlan suggested a presbytery-wide mission study.

Other business.

A letter was received presented from Richard Sharrett (Fanwood) concerning the way the PJC deals with cases of sexual misconduct.

Adjourn.

The Council **VOTED** to adjourn with prayer by Lee Anne Lowman at 5:55 pm (EST).

Attest:

Paul F. Rack
Stated Clerk